

ANGLICAN BISHOP DEFENDS BLASPHEMOUS PLAY

November 9, 1999 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - Bishop Richard Holloway, head of the Scottish Episcopal Church, has defended a blasphemous play that depicts Jesus Christ and the Apostles as homosexuals. "The play *Corpus Christi* by Terrence McNally presents its version of the Gospel story in modern Texas, showing Jesus crucified as 'King of the Queers' being betrayed by his gay lover, Judas" (Religion Today, Nov. 9, 1999). In a review published in the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement's magazine, Holloway said the play is acceptable because the crucifixion allegedly "encompasses all pain and persecution, including the persecution of the homosexual community throughout history."

The wicked play premiered in 1998 in Britain and the United States. When it opened in London at the end of last month, an Islamic judge, Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad, pronounced the death sentence against McNally, who lives in New York.

Sheikh Omar also criticized churches for not taking a stronger stand against *Corpus Christi*. The New Testament, though, does not give churches the authority to exercise capital punishment. That authority is the sole prerogative of the God and government, and the latter is to be separate from the church. It is the government that has the authority to bear the sword, not the churches (Romans 13:1-4). Not once in the New Testament epistles are the churches instructed to destroy heretics. Rather, they are instructed to mark and avoid them (Romans 16:17-18; 2 Tim. 2:16-17; Titus 3:10-11). The Apostles warned that false teachers would arise who would blaspheme and deny Jesus Christ and who would live wicked lives (2 Peter 2:1-22; Jude 4-19). They are described as "ungodly men ... filthy dreamers ... complainers, walking after their own lusts ... sensual." They "walk after the flesh in the lusts of uncleanness" (2 Peter 2:10). In both 2 Peter and in Jude, these wicked false teachers are compared to the men of Sodom and Gomorrah, thus describing their affiliation with homosexual abominations. Though it might appear to the world that these vile men are getting away with their blasphemies, God will judge them in His good time (2 Peter 2:4-9; Jude 14-15). The Bible warns that they are bringing "upon themselves swift destruction" (2 Peter 2:1).

The Apostles did not attempt to Christianize the Roman Empire. Rather, they devoted themselves to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). D. James Kennedy and many others who are trying to "bring America back to God" claim they are following the "cultural mandate." There is no such thing, though, in this church age. The example and teaching of the Apostles leave no doubt about this. See the book of Acts, in which there is not even a hint that the Apostles believed in a "cultural mandate" to Christianize society at large.

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19).